

EDDY COUNTY
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

September 2007

Farm Service Agency

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LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM/LIVESTOCK INCENTIVE PROGRAM SIGNUP FOR 2006

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting **September 10, 2007**.

ATTENTION

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS



Additional information will be forthcoming.

LCP/LIP Cont'd

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared Presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.



FINAL DCP PAYMENTS FOR 2007

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate. issued in the fall.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

Prospective Voter Requirements - The voter must be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding and must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote, please contact your county office staff.

The nominees for Eddy County LAA3 were Curtis Doyal and Jerry Walker.

SUCCESSION IN INTEREST

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is program eligible on the property.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- ◆ A sale of land
- ◆ A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- ◆ A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- ◆ A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

A revised CCC-509, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract, with all changes must be complete with all signatures by Sept. 28 for payments to be distributed.

Note: *Changes that require a reconstitution must be reported to the county committee by Aug. 1 of the fiscal year in which the change occurred.*

REPORTING CROP LOSSES

If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

It's important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this loss right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local insurance agent and the FSA office when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for perennial crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

September 30, 2007 is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in Eddy County on Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, and Wheat. Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to **1)** file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; **2)** timely file acreage reports; and **3)** keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

Sign-up now for EQIP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set a sign-up deadline of November 2, 2007 for landowners to sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to be eligible for the next round of funding.

Applications can be made for Wildlife Habitat Incentive Programs (WHIP) as well. This program is for producers wishing to improve habitats for wildlife on their lands. EQIP and WHIP both have a continuous application sign up time period; however, the ranking period to be considered for 2008 funding ends on November 2, 2007. Cost shares may be available for conservation practices such as manure management facilities, irrigation systems, brush management, and many other practices. For further information call the NRCS office at 505-887-3506 ext. 3, or stop by at 114 S. Halagueno, Carlsbad, NM.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



NRCS Photo

Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.



Controlled Substance

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

MILCX Extended

On May 25, 2007, the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (2007 Act) into law. The 2007 Act provides, among other things, allows the continuation of MILCX program benefits through September 30, 2007.

The Farm Service Agency's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level, and the extended program period is called MILCX.

Eligible dairy producers are those who, beginning Dec. 1, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2007: Commercially produce and market cow milk in the United States; or produce milk in the United States and commercially market the milk outside the United States.

MILCX participants with an existing CCC-580X, who want to change the production start month for the dairy operation from a selected month to September 2007, will use CCC-580M to make that change, according to MILCX production start month change provisions.

The minor programmatic change required by the May legislation will **not** require another signup. The price shortfall percentage for the payment calculation increased from 0 to 34 percent, which makes the Sept. 2007 payment calculation consistent for all other months in FY06 and FY07. MILCX payments to program participants with an approved CCC-580X will continue from the designated production start month selected by the dairy operator, and run through September 30, 2007. All other program provisions remain the same.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call

COTTON PROGRAM REFERENDUM SIGN-UP

Cotton producer and importers who want USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) to conduct a referendum regarding the Cotton Research and Promotion Program can sign-up at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office *September 4, through November 30, 2007*. Producers who do not want a referendum do not need to sign-up.

This sign-up period allows eligible cotton producers and importers to request a referendum of the continuation of the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act.

Dates to Remember

September 28, 2007

Deadline to Late-file DCP Contract

October 8

Columbus Day Holiday

November 2

Ballots for COC Election

EQIP Deadline

November 30

Cotton Program Referendum Deadline

December 3

Deadline to return ballots

COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Dale Woods, CED

Jodie Chism, COT

David Torres, Jr. COC Chairman

Sharon Giovengo, COC V-Chairman

Curtis Doyal, Member

In March 2007, following a comprehensive mandatory five-year review, USDA endorsed continuation of the 1991 Order amendments without a continuance referendum. This sign-up period is significant because if results of the sign-up period show that at least 10 percent (4,622) of the voting program participants request the conduct of a continuance referendum, then a referendum will be held within 12 months of the sign-up period end date.

Changes to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program were approved in a July 1991 referendum, by a 60 percent majority of cotton producers and importers who voted. These changes included: (1) importer representation on the Cotton Board, the organization that assists the Department in administering the Cotton Research and Promotion Program; (2) assessments levied on imported cotton and cotton products; (3) increasing the amount the Department can be reimbursed to conduct a referendum from \$200,000 to \$300,000; (4) reimbursing government agencies that assist in administering the collection of assessments on imported cotton and cotton products; and (5) terminating the right of cotton producers to demand a refund of assessments.

Eligible producers are individuals over age 18 engaged in the production of upland cotton during calendar year 2006. Eligible importers are those who imported upland cotton in excess of the value of \$2.00 per line item entry during calendar year 2006.

Note: Other eligibility requirements might apply and eligibility will be determined by FSA.